

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 4-A

WASHINGTON TIMES
22 September 1986

21 expelled Soviet diplomats depart

By Bill Gertz
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Twenty-one of the 25 Soviet U.N. diplomats expelled last week as suspected spies left the United States yesterday, and the remaining officials will depart by Oct. 1, according to Soviet officials.

The Soviets, many of them carrying video recorders and color TVs, boarded a Soviet Aeroflot plane at Kennedy International Airport at about 4:30 p.m.

The diplomats refused to comment on their expulsion, but a spokesman for the New York Port Authority confirmed that 21 Soviets left on the plane.

The State Department on Wednesday ordered 25 Soviet diplomats at the Soviet U.N. mission in New York to leave the country by Oct. 1.

The expulsions were the first wave in a series of staff reductions that President Reagan ordered last

March. Altogether, 105 Soviet diplomats must leave the United States, reducing the size of the U.N. mission to 170 within two years.

"We hoped the United States government would alter the decision," Soviet U.N. mission press secretary Anatoly Khudiakov said. "We still hope they would. But still... we are on the territory of the United States, on United States soil."

Valentin Karymov, senior counselor at the Soviet mission, said earlier that all 25 expelled diplomats would leave by the Oct. 1 deadline set by the United States.

Meanwhile, Sen. Patrick Moynihan, New York Democrat, defended the expulsion of the diplomats, who were suspected of spying for the Soviet Union. He said the order does not violate U.N. rules.

Mr. Moynihan said the expulsion was permissible under the 1947 U.N. headquarters agreement outlining relations between the U.S. govern-

ment and the world body.

"We were entirely within our rights," said Mr. Moynihan, who was U.S. ambassador to the United Nations in 1975 and 1976.

Mr. Moynihan also said the administration should have targeted suspected Soviet spies operating as international civil servants employed by the U.N. Secretariat.

"I would have thought the United States should first of all have addressed the Soviet spies in the U.N. Secretariat," Mr. Moynihan said. "They are there in direct violation of Article 100 of the charter."

The U.N. charter prohibits any Secretariat staff members from "taking direction" from a foreign government.

Mr. Moynihan also said U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar was not correct in charging last week that the expulsion violated U.N. rules.

"Under the headquarters agreement, we have that power," Mr. Moynihan said on NBC television.

The 1947 U.N. headquarters agreement allows the U.S. government to expell any U.N. diplomat or employee caught engaging in activities inconsistent with official U.N. functions.

Mr. de Cuellar said through a U.N. spokesman Thursday that the expulsion was "incompatible" with the headquarters agreement.

Administration officials said privately last week that all the diplomats ordered out are senior officers of the Soviet KGB or military GRU intelligence service. The sweep included top Soviet officers and was designed to disrupt Soviet espionage operations, the officials said.

"That is going to have a rippling affect on KGB and GRU operations in New York," said one administration official.

Wire services were used in compiling this report.

✓